



Tompkins County Election Worker News

Tompkins County
Board of Elections

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"To make democracy work, we must be a nation of participants, not simply observers."— Louis L'Amour

2007 Voting Machine Demos - Please Attend!

We have to make our decision soon about which HAVA compliant voting machines we want to purchase for use in 2007. This is a momentous decision: we'll be spending hundreds of thousands of dollars, and we'll be committed to using those machines for years to come.

Therefore, we're scheduling demonstrations of new voting machines at the Ithaca Town Hall, 215 N. Tioga St. (The old Post Office). The demos will be from noon to 4 pm. As of this printing we have the following dates:

June 14: Sequoia Voting Systems June 20: Liberty Election Systems

We *strongly* recommend that all inspectors and machine technicians attend these demonstrations. We value and need your feedback and thoughts about these machines. Are they "Inspector" friendly? Easy for technicians to work on? You're the ones who are on the front lines - so tell us what you think!

Check "www.votetompkins.com" or call us for last minute updates and additions to the schedule.

HAVA Update: Interim Plan "B"

As you may have already figured out from the article above, in 2006 we will still be using the same old mechanical voting machines that have served us so well and for so long. But there will be a slight addition.

Earlier this year the Federal government sued NY State over non-compliance with the Help America Vote Act. New York had missed Federal deadlines for purchasing new voting machines and implementing a Statewide database.

As part of the settlement, the State has come up with a plan (called "plan B") . This calls for us to purchase one special voting machine for use by voters with disabilities. We will place this machine at the Board of Elections office. Voters with disabilities do not *have* to use that machine. They can still vote absentee, or go to their local polling place and vote with assistance, if needed. But if they want to use a disabled voter friendly machine, they will now be able to.

By next year, all our polling sites will have a new voting machine that is easier to use by a voter with disabilities. At least that's the plan. (Called "Plan A", by the way).

Important Dates:

June 14, 20:

2007 Voting Machine
demonstrations at Ithaca
Town Hall, noon to 4 pm

September 12:

Primary Election
Polls open noon to 9 pm

November 7:

General Election.
Polls open 6 am to 9 pm

Tips for Election Day

1. If your team can't agree on a procedure, look for an answer in your election handbook, or call us.
2. Don't read the newspaper when voters are around: visible political ads might be construed as electioneering!
3. Remember to pack a lunch and/or some snacks!



Anybody You Know?

This is a story about four people named **Everybody**, **Somebody**, **Anybody** and **Nobody**. There was an important job to be done and **Everybody** was sure that **Somebody** would do it. **Anybody** could have done it, but **Nobody** did it. **Somebody** got angry about that, because it was **Everybody's** job. **Everybody** thought **Anybody** could do it, but **Nobody** realized that **Everybody** wouldn't do it. It ended up that **Everybody** blamed **Somebody** when **Nobody** did what **Anybody** could have.

We're pretty sure this story isn't about any of *our* Inspectors or Technicians... right?

Mandatory Machine School

"Machine School" is usually held the Saturday before an election. Our Machine Technicians review with Election Inspectors the physical operation of the voting machines: how to open the machine for voting, how to gather results, what to do if there is a problem, etc. Inspectors now must attend a training class every year, and we will often combine training with machine school to fulfill your requirement. You will be paid \$25 for attending.

This year we're starting a new system, scheduling the machine schools by **regions**. In order to efficiently cover the county on election day, we've created 10 regions, based on geography, not township or election district lines. For example, Region 6 contains poll sites in both Groton and North Lansing. Therefore your school may be in a different location this year than it was last year. We will contact you later with specific information.

For questions or comments about this newsletter, contact Tom Paolangeli, 274-5522, or email: tpaolangeli@tompkins-co.org.

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Check our Web site:

www.votetompkins.com,
for information about upcoming and past elections.